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dose of horror

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“fake news”

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The Alabamian

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Thursday, April 13, 2017

Bentley resigns; Ivey sworn in

By TIM LOCKETTE, THE ANNISTON STAR

Gov. Robert Bentley pleaded guilty to two misdemeanors and resigned from office Monday, felled by a sex scandal and alleged cover-up.

The governor resigned as part of a plea deal agreed to at the Montgomery County Courthouse, according to an announcement from the attorney general's office, and acknowledged his guilt on two charges related to campaign finance.

A short time later, Bentley announced his resignation in an address to reporters, government officials and tourists who happened to be in the State Capitol.

"I've not always made the right choices," Bentley said. "I've not always said the right things." Bentley referred to his "sins" and said that "there have been times that I've let you and the people of this state down, and I'm sorry for that."

Once a popular Republican governor in a deep-red state, Bentley faced impeachment hearings in the House of Representatives this week, as lawmakers looked into allegations that the governor had an affair with a top married staffer and tried to use state police to hide it.

"His loyalty shifted from the state of Alabama to himself," special counsel Jack Sharman told the House Judiciary Committee in impeachment hearings Monday.

Bentley's administration has been in crisis since March 2016, when the governor fired former state law enforcement director Spencer Collier. Collier accused Bentley of an affair with Rebekah Mason, a married political staffer



Now ousted former Governor Robert Bentley (left) beside successor Kay Ivey.

Courtesy of WRBL

who once was a state employee but later served on the governor's staff while being paid through campaign funds and by a nonprofit that doesn't disclose its donors.

Many in Montgomery believed Mason's pay arrangement might get the governor in trouble with state ethics officials, but it was the affair allegation that riveted the public's attention for a year. Bentley was caught in lewd talk with Mason in a recording that was leaked to the press.

Sharman Monday said it was that tape — more specifically, Bentley's attempt to find and hide it — that caused Bentley to cross into impeachable behavior.

"What is important is that the relationship explains the motive," Sharman said. He said the issue

at stake "is not a burlesque of text messages but rather power and its misuse."

Sharman in the Monday hearings said the recording was made by the governor's former wife, Dianne, who suspected an affair. Bentley on hearing of the recording tried to send law enforcement officers to investigate the first lady's aide Heather Hannah, whom he believed had made the recording, and sent them to obtain copies of the recording from others who supposedly had it.

"Gov. Bentley became focused, and then obsessed, on the existence of the tapes," Sharman said.

Sharman said the Bentley affair was less like the impeachment of President Bill Clinton — a sex

scandal — and more like the resignation of Richard Nixon, accused primarily of a cover-up.

The committee abruptly recessed around 2:30 p.m. as rumors of a pending resignation grew.

By 5 p.m., the Montgomery County Jail had posted a mugshot of the smiling governor, along with confirmation of his arrest on misdemeanor charges.

Under his plea deal, Bentley will pay more than \$7,000 in fines and fees, replay more than \$8,900 to his campaign and render 100 hours of community service in his old profession as a physician. He also agreed never to seek or serve in public office again.

See **GOVERNOR,**
Page 2

NEWS in BRIEF

By VANDY MYERS

According to IEEE Spectrum, the first autonomous biped fighting tournament took place in Japan, hosted by Robo-One. While robotic fighting tournaments have been around for years, this new tournament removes the aspect of the active player, as the creators of the robots are forced to step and watch instead of controlling the robots directly. Footage of the fights are available to watch on YouTube, courtesy of MISUMI. IEEE Spectrum reported that 16 robots competed and 12 matches were included in the tournament. The robots contained cameras and/or sensors which allowed them to locate their opponents, ranging from complex to simple systems.

A legal battle between transportation company Uber and multinational corporation Google, is currently underway. Google accused Uber of stealing self-driving car designs from Waymo, Google's self-driving car unit, to use in their own designs. This lawsuit could have a significant impact on the developing self-driving car industry, as the potential set-backs from this legal case to Uber's project could result in months of delay in their work. The case was sparked by the transfer of Anthony Levandowski, an engineer who originally worked for Waymo, then went on to create his own company named Otto and be acquired by Uber for \$700 million, according to Vox. Waymo believes the engineer in question illegally used 14,000 confidential documents he acquired while working at Waymo. Uber claims that their strict policy prevents the use of previous confidential information by newly acquired employees.

A group of astronomers is working to capture the first-ever image of a black hole. The project, titled the Event Horizon Telescope, involves linking up multiple observatories around the world to create a radio telescope with enough power to capture an image of the singularity Sgr A*, a black hole over 26,000 light-years from our own planet according to the team working on the project. Space.com reported that the observations began April 5, and will continue until April 14. After the photographs are taken, the images will need to be interpreted and corrected for any interference by weather or other sources. The astronomers hope to find clues that explain the characteristics of black holes with these photographs, and the images may provide additional insight into the relationship between quantum mechanics theory and general relativity theory.

Big Event 2017 Puts Over 500 Student Volunteers to Work

Courtesy of UNIVERSITY RELATIONS



Each year, the Big Event unites campus organizations and athletic teams for a day of community service.

Courtesy of University Relations

On Saturday, April 8, students across the UM campus got an early start to perform volunteer work throughout the Montevallo community. This year, 515 students from 33 different student groups and athletic teams completed 40 jobs for local businesses, organizations and citizens.

Student Justin Williams, SGA director of social services, organized much of the event in the weeks prior by assisting Jenny Bell, director of Student Life, in assigning student organizations and coordinating work sites.

"I believe in giving back to the people and the community that gives to you," said Williams. "Montevallo has given the students, faculty and staff here at the University so much."

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New UM sports continue to make progress

By ALEX TEJADA

Two of Montevallo's newest sports conclude their third and second seasons on campus this weekend.

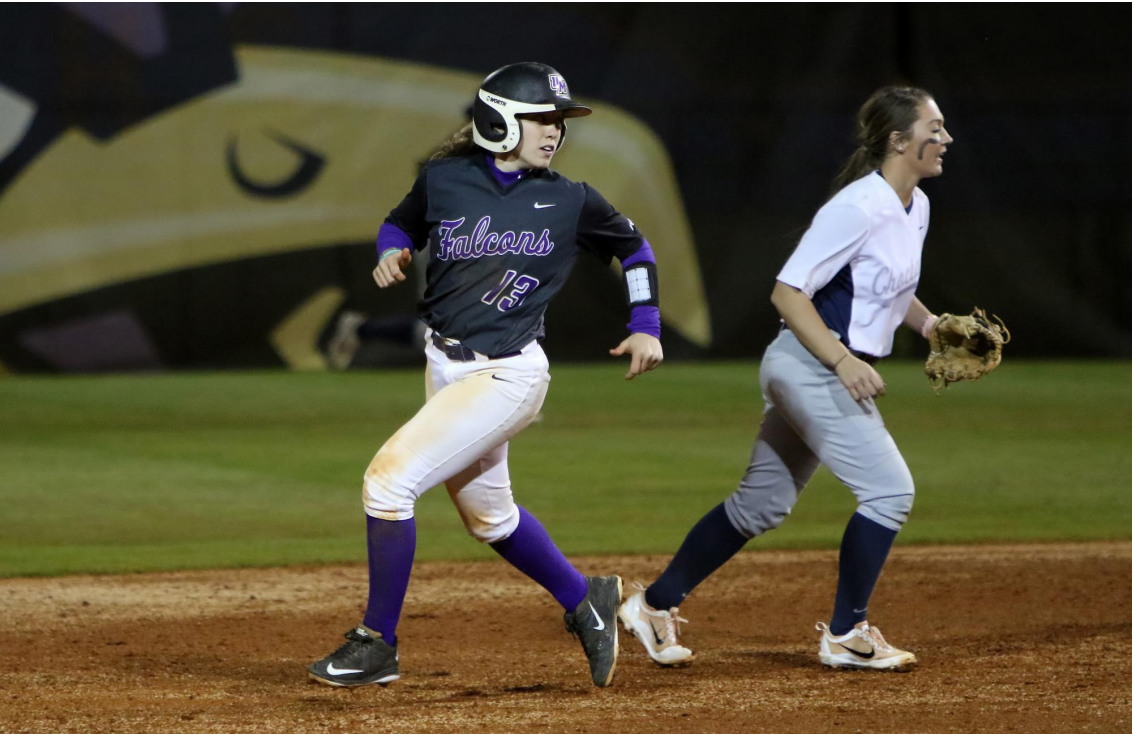
Lindsey Vanover's softball team faces doubleheaders against UNC Pembroke and Francis Marion, and hope to break their record of 21 wins in a season. The Falcons are currently 20-20 and are 7th in the conference. The team is looking to make only their 2nd Peach Belt Quarterfinal in their short history. The games at Orr Park start on Friday at 11 a.m. The Falcons pitchers Jocelyn Rivera and Abbey Pratt have 4.45 and 3.91 ERA's respectively. Dylan Bailey and Kelsey Vining lead the team in home runs.

Coach Frank Rogers' completes their second regular season against UAH on Saturday. The first draw is set for 1 p.m. as the

Falcons welcome the top team in the Gulf South Conference.

Montevallo are 8-8 and hope to record only their 3rd conference win before the Gulf South Tournament.

Jami Hudak has built on her massive freshman year with her 44 goal tally this season. However, she has had support this season. Lauren Duckworth, Lara Schuetz, Jess Culver and Alyssa Kaminski have at least 24 goals each. Kaminski was named Gulf South Conference player of the week earlier this season. Duckworth, Schuetz and Culver have developed into versatile players this year and have double digit assist numbers. Freshman Janey Johnson leads the team in that category, with 16 assists in her first season.



UM softball is hoping to break their record of 21 wins in a season. Courtesy of UM Athletics



Courtesy of UM Athletics

Former UM pitcher moves to Winston Salem Dash

By ALEX TEJADA

Former Montevallo Pitcher Aron McRee has moved to Advanced A team Winston Salem Dash in the Chicago White Sox farm system.

McRee was named the Pioneer Pitcher of the Year a season ago for his league best 2.16 ERA. He started 11 games for the Great Falls Voyagers and had a 5-0 record.

McRee pitched four innings on Monday night in his first start against the Down East Wood Ducks of the Carolina League.

The Alabaster native played for the Falcons from 2013-2016. He was signed as an undrafted free agent last June by the White Sox. McRee was a First Team All-Peach Belt Conference selection following his senior season. He led the team in strikeout with 71, and had a career high 11 strikeout against UNC Pembroke.

He only gave up two home runs and struck out 54 batters in his time with the Pioneer League Voyagers.

Women's tennis team breaks own record

By ALEX TEJADA



The women's tennis team is currently eighth in the conference. Courtesy of UM Athletics

Montevallo women's tennis team finishes their record-breaking season this Saturday at home against USC Aiken.

The 16-7 Falcons travel to West Alabama this afternoon for a non-conference match before the weekend's regular season finale. Coach Albertsen's team are eighth in the conference and dismantled Georgia Southwestern on Friday by an 8-1 scoreline.

The number one and two singles players, Alina Munteanu and Emily Beatty, boast 20-5 records.

Amanda Gautreaux, Julia Berg and Lauren Pero have double digit singles victories in 2017. The top doubles pair, Rayne Sinclair and Alice Copland, have had a great season as well as freshman Merel Van Zutphen who competes in both singles and doubles.

The season finale starts at 11 a.m. on Saturday. The Peach Belt Championships start later this month. They have already bettered last season's record setting 13 win season.

Governor, cont.

The charges seem to stem from a ruling last week by the Alabama Ethics Commission, which found probable cause that Bentley misused state resources, made an illegal loan to his campaign to pay his and Mason's legal costs and accepted an illegal campaign contribution when he allowed the Republican Governor's Association to reimburse his campaign for a trip with Mason to a convention in Las Vegas. Bentley's critics said the House, spurred on by growing public disaffection with Bentley, would have voted for impeachment given the chance.

"I'm glad to see that he did the right thing," said Rep. Ed Henry, R-Hartselle. "I wish he would have done it sooner."

Bentley's resignation moves Lt. Gov Kay Ivey into the governor's office, making her the second female governor in the state's history. State Senate President Pro Tempore Del Marsh, R-Anniston, will take Ivey's role as president of the Senate, but there's no provision in the state constitution for replacing a lieutenant governor in mid-term.

"The Ivey administration will be open, it will be transparent, and it will be honest," Ivey said after her swearing-in, an hour after Bentley announced his resignation.

Ivey announced no new plans in her brief speech, talking instead about an orderly transition of power. She entered and left the Old Senate Chamber to loud applause.

Bentley was popular in his first term, so much so that in 2014, The Washington Post listed him as one of a handful of governors who were popular enough in their own states to consider a run for president. Bentley at the

time thought he'd have a shot at president if he did run.

"People vote on emotion and on gut instinct, if you're in the ballpark of common belief," he said at the time.

But the governor's popularity began to crumble even before news of the affair broke.

Within weeks of his election, he acknowledged a major shortfall in the state budget and proposed more than half a billion dollars in new taxes to fill it. The proposal was at odds with his 2014 campaign slogan — "More jobs, less government, no new taxes" — and he lost clout with fellow Republicans because of it.

The former Tuscaloosa doctor never collected a salary as governor. He pledged not to take pay until Alabama reached "full employment," roughly the same numbers the state saw before the 2008 recession. The state did recover, but job growth lagged behind most other states.

One success for Bentley was an expansion of the state's pre-kindergarten program, which Bentley saw as a cure for many of the state's educational ills. He successfully sold lawmakers on expansion of the program every year after he took up the cause.

His plans for the state's overcrowded prisons didn't fare as well. This year was Bentley's second try at passing a major building plan for more penitentiaries to replace prisons that are at about 170 percent of their built capacity. Lawmakers rejected the bill last year, citing a lack of detail in the plan.

A new version of the bill now awaits approval in the House, but lawmakers aren't optimistic about its passage.

Bentley is the third major Alabama official to leave office

within a year. House Speaker Mike Hubbard was convicted on felony ethics charges last year and Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore was suspended from office for defying the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriage.

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Can you tell the difference between real and fake news?

By ZACH MILLER

“Fake” news is a topic of much conversation recently. Being able to discern whether or not a story is true or false can be difficult in the age of social media. “It seems people have lost the ability to detect fake news,” said Dr. Randall Scott, a Mass Communication professor. While it may be difficult to figure out just what is real or fake in the media, it is not impossible. Scott has provided several ways in which one can ascertain the truth of a story.

STICK TO MAINSTREAM SOURCES
The simplest way to know whether or not a news story is fake is to get your news from reputable sources. For television news, this would be a network such as ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, etc. For print journalism, newspapers such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Atlanta Constitution and The Birmingham News are considered reputable sources for news.

DOES THE STORY SEEM RIDICULOUS?
If a story makes outrageous claims such as “President Obama wants to ban the Pledge of Allegiance at sporting events,” it is normally being written to elicit strong emotions from the reader. If a story makes you mad or astounds you it is best to check other sources to verify if the information you have read is accurate.

PAY ATTENTION TO THE WRITING STYLE
Most journalists use AP or a similar style of writing in news reporting. If you familiarize yourself with the way a journalist writes a story then you should be able to spot inconsistencies in style in articles. For example, most stories don't use a lot of adjectives or adverbs or flashy headlines.

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

FACT CHECK! FACT CHECK! FACT CHECK!
When in doubt about a story there are ways to check the veracity of what you have read. Websites such as Snopes.com and FactCheck.org are great sources to use to determine whether or not a news article is true or not. Take advantage of these sites and others like them if you find yourself doubting a story.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SHARE
There have always been conspiracy theories but now, thanks to the Internet, anybody can go online and say whatever they want to about a subject, whether it is true or not. You should use caution before you share an article or blog post that you think seems fishy. Sharing stories you know or suspect to be fake will only add fuel to an already large fire of misinformation online.

USE COMMON SENSE
This is the best way to know whether or not a source should be trusted. You have instincts so use them. If a story sounds too good to be true or so outrageous as to cause negative emotions then it is more than likely fake.

Zach Miller | The Alabamian



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A “tale as old as time” that remains fresh

By ZACH MILLER



According to Miller, -Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast” remake lives up to the hype. Courtesy of Walt Disney Studios

Disney has invited audiences to be their guest to new a story that is old yet remains as fresh and entertaining as if it were new. “Beauty and the Beast,” a live-action remake of the beloved animated classic, engages in nostalgia while offering something new to those who have grown up with the fairy tale.

The story stays true to the original: Belle (Emma Watson), a forward-thinking heroine in a backwards age, finds herself the

captive of the mysterious Beast (Dan Stevens) after saving her father from the creature’s dungeon. Over time she comes to find that the Beast is really a kind soul trapped beneath the fur and the fangs, and the two fall in love. But they must contend with Belle’s jealous suitor, Gaston (Luke Evans), who will stop at nothing to make Belle his wife and place the Beast’s head above his mantel-piece.

The reason this story feels so fresh is because Disney has fleshed out the characters and their world. Belle was always a more modern Disney princess than most of her peers but whereas in the original this amounted to just being a free spirit and well read, in this version she is even more well rounded. She is an inventor in this film, devising a clever machine to do her laundry and actively encouraging the girls of the town to read and think for themselves. Naturally, this does not go over well with the townspeople who can’t understand why a girl would want to do anything other than settle down and take a husband.

This version of Belle feels more like a real person than even the original. She never accepts that she will remain a prisoner in the

Beast’s castle and is already fashioning a rope made of scarves and dresses to climb her way down to freedom almost from the moment she is imprisoned. We also get a glimpse of some of her interests, such as Shakespeare--something that also leads to a connection with the Beast.

The Beast is an even more tragic creation this go around. We learn that the reason the Beast was even cruel in the first place was because he was taught to be from a young age by a neglectful father. The Beast and Belle have both lost their mothers but one was left with a kind, loving father while the other was raised by one to be vain and selfish.

It is easier to see the humanity in this version of the Beast and we get a glimpse into his soul and all he feels towards Belle in a powerful new song.

Even Gaston is less of a caricature here than in the past. This Gaston is more inwardly calculating and more outwardly charming than the original. He is less brash, but still just as conceited. He is shown manipulating the townspeople, especially his sidekick LeFou (Josh Gad), at a more alarming rate than what we have previously seen.

The visuals of the film are a sight to behold. They are a clever mixture of the style of the original film and eighteenth century France. The Beast’s servants actually look like genuine pieces of their time.

We are given the same old songs that we have come to love from this story. They are done as straightforwardly as the originals. My only complaint is that some of the actors’ voices aren’t as strong or as memorable as the original cast. There were times when I found myself hearing the tunes in the original voice instead of the current one.

The best thing about “Beauty and the Beast” is that the film seems like a fresh story due to the nuances and small changes to the original while still bringing in that feeling of nostalgia that one gets from seeing a beloved animated classic brought to life.

This is one of the first of many of Disney’s live-action adaptations of their classic animated films to be released in the coming years. If all of the others still hold true to their original stories while adding unique changes, employ a stellar cast and not beat the audience over the head with nostalgia, then I say bring them on.

On The Bricks

with
KESHIA MCCLANTOC

- 1) What are you doing to prepare for the end of the semester?
- 2) What is your best finals week advice?
- 3) What are you looking forward to most after school ends?



Hayley Crumpton, Junior Human Development Major

- 1) I’m not doing anything to be honest. I’m just trying to stay on top of my assignments.
- 2) You cannot learn an entire course in 4 hours, trust me. I’ve tried.
- 3) I’m looking forward to no deadlines and all the sleep I could ever want.



Casey Hanna, Sophomore Social Work Major

- 1) I am working on any assignments I can do before finals week, so that I can just focus on my finals as soon as possible.
- 2) Try to study at least a week in advance. Most of the time projects and presentations are the week before finals, so starting as early as possible will help.
- 3) I’m excited to spend more time with my family. I know some students use college as an escape, but this year I missed my family a lot.



Alexander Holder, Junior English Major

- 1) Trying to attend all my classes and oversleep less.
- 2) Pay attention to the finals week schedule and actually show up to all your exams.
- 3) Forgetting about all the good advice I gave myself during finals week.

New “Power Rangers” fall short of mighty

By ZACH MILLER

“Mighty Morphin Power Rangers” was a treat to any five-year-old when it debuted in 1993. Mixing footage of American actors with stock footage from a Japanese superhero series, the show became an instant success, wowing its child audience with campy humor and nonstop action.

The same cannot be said for the new “Power Rangers” movie. These rangers, instead of being teenagers with attitude, are now a group of high school misfits right out of “The Breakfast Club.” This wouldn’t be a problem if the movie kept its gritty tone throughout instead of inserting downright juvenile jokes into the narrative.

The premise of the film is pretty much the same as the original show: five teenagers are summoned by the powerful ancient being Zordon (Bryan Cranston) to combat the forces of evil on earth. Their first assignment is stopping the evil Rita Repulsa (Elizabeth

Banks), a former Green Ranger from eons past now hell-bent on conquering the Earth.

The five rangers are Red Ranger Jason (Dacre Montgomery), a disgraced former star quarterback; Pink Ranger Kimberly Hart (Naomi Scott), a disgraced former cheerleader busted for slut-shaming a fellow cheerleader; Blue Ranger Billy Cranston (RJ Cyler), an autistic genius whose inventions sometimes literally blow up in his face; Black Ranger Zack (Ludi Lin), a jokester who lives with his ailing mother in a mobile home; and Yellow Ranger Trini (Becky G), a loner who moves from school to school and whose parents have a hard time accepting her sexuality.

We are given much more of each ranger’s backstory in this version which would be okay but in a film promising Power Rangers, the five don’t actually morph until about the last forty minutes of the

film.

Instead of the campy humor of the original we are treated to jokes that involve “milking” a cow and shoving crayons into one’s orifice. But at least the movie strikes a respectful tone towards Trini (a member of the LGBT community) and Billy (a teen on the autism spectrum), making them feel like real people instead of stereotypes.

The highlight of any Power Rangers story is the final battle between giant monsters and the Rangers’ Zords. This is where the movie does not miss a beat. The final battle between Megazord and Rita’s monster Goldar is as fun as one would expect from the Power Rangers franchise.

Sadly, this is only the last thirty minutes of the film and one can’t be blamed from being so worn out from the previous half hour of exposition and backstory as to not care about the outcome. Even the movie itself



The new Power Rangers movie might not be the nostalgic action movie you hoped for. Courtesy of Lionsgate

seems to feel this as the infamous “Go Go Power Rangers” is belted out on the soundtrack for only about fifteen seconds during the climactic battle. The climax is also not helped by a massive plug for Krispy Kreme Doughnuts that takes product placement to a new level.

“Power Rangers” lacks the fun

humor of the original while only giving us a taste of the original’s fun action sequences. Since there will inevitably be a sequel, we can only hope that now that the backstory has been told we will get all of the zany action throughout the next film. Then we will really feel like saying “go go Power Rangers.”

Montevallo Arts Fest on April 22

Courtesy of UNIVERSITY RELATIONS



Montevallo Arts Fest will host about 60 artists with their work on display. Courtesy of University Relations

The Montevallo Arts Council will celebrate spring with the eleventh annual Montevallo Arts Fest in Orr Park on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This family-friendly arts festival will have something for everyone to enjoy.

Approximately 60 artists will line the park to display and sell their work ranging from fine arts to artisan and craft works. In addition to works for sale, there will be artists on hand to demonstrate their artwork throughout the day, including caricature artists Ed Abernathy and Kevin Van Hyning from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Children will have the opportunity to make a piece of art at the children's creative corner sponsored by the Montevallo Artwalk and UM Student Art Association. As part of the children's creative corner, the UM Environmental Club will help kids make their own sailboat with their Sailing into Sustainability booth.

Also for the young and young at heart, balloon artist Carl Carrier will be creating balloon animals from 3 to 5 p.m.

Festival food will include Lazy Boy BBQ, Sandwiches, Frios popsicles, Kona Ice and more.

Local upcycling artist Rachel Daniel describes

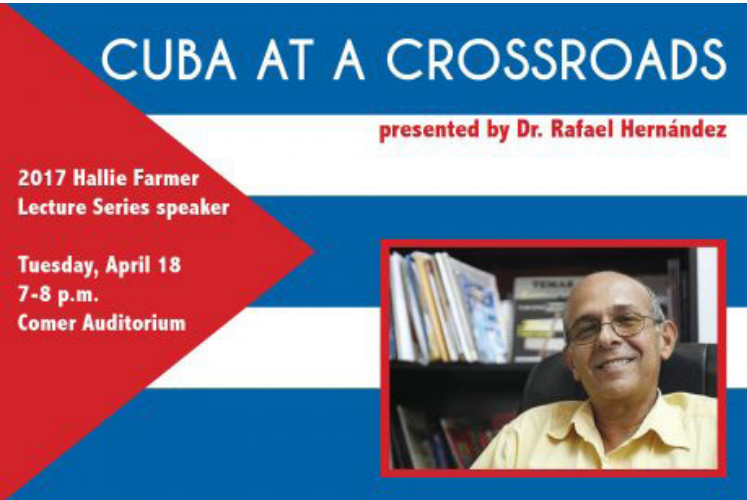
her reasons for participating in the Arts Fest each year, "Montevallo Arts Fest rolls around each year about the time that the weather has turned oh-so-perfect. As an artist, I love coming back to this show because it has the same outdoorsy vibe of upscale art festivals like Moss Rock and Magic City Art Connection, but in an atmosphere that is uniquely Montevallo. Orr Park is the perfect place to showcase our local talent and participating in this festival feels like an extended afternoon in the park, but with art!"

Entertainment adds to the festival's atmosphere. The music lineup for this year's festival includes Brendan Young and the one-man-swing-band, Jim Quakenbush. This year's event will also feature fight choreography by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and Pop-up Shakespeare (short snippets of Shakespeare plays) performed by UM Theatre students throughout the day.

Montevallo Arts Fest is one of the many events to be held in Montevallo, April 20-22 as part of the Forte Festival. The Forte Festival is a creative festival showcasing the interdisciplinary experience at UM and partnerships with the community, such as the Montevallo Arts Council.

Hernández to be 2017 Hallie Farmer Lecturer

Courtesy of UNIVERSITY RELATIONS



Courtesy of University Relations

Dr. Rafael M. Hernández, scholar of Cuban culture and society, will be the University of Montevallo's 2017 Hallie Farmer Lecturer with a talk titled, Cuba at a Crossroads. The event, to be held in Comer Auditorium on Tuesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. is free and open to the public. A public reception will follow at 8 p.m.

Hernández is one of the world's preeminent scholars of Cuban culture and society. His impressive accolades include time spent as a professor at the University of Havana, director of U.S. studies at the Centro de Estudios sobre América (an influential Cuban think tank) and a senior research fellow at the Juan Marinello Institute in Havana.

Hernández has taught as a visiting professor at renowned higher education institutions in the U.S. including Harvard and Columbia. He has also served as a visiting scholar at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC.

Currently, Hernández is the

chief editor of Temas, Cuba's leading magazine in the social sciences. He has penned and co-edited a variety of ruminations on Cuban and U.S. policies, inter-American relations, international security, migration and Cuban culture, civil society and politics. His written works include "The History of Havana" (2006) and "Play Ball! Debating U.S.-Cuban Relations" (2015).

The Hallie Farmer Lectures bring distinguished figures in the social sciences to Montevallo for two to three days of lectures and informal appearances. Guests have ranged from a former U.S. secretary of state to a Russian-American documentary filmmaker. The lecture series was established in 1985 in memory of Montevallo professor and civic leader Hallie Farmer.

For additional information on the Hallie Farmer lecture, contact Eric Vaccarella at vaccarella@montevallo.edu or 205-665-6415.

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Horror writer delights UM with reading

By KESHIA MCCLANTOC

On Wednesday, April 10, Montevallo was visited by best-selling author Robert McCammon. He is a Birmingham native and has written over 19 horror novels and many more short stories. Students and teachers alike poured into the J.A. Brown Room, eager to hear him speak and get copies of signed books.

The reading was the brainchild of Dr. Lee Rozelle, associate professor in the English and Foreign Language department and local horror fanatic. McCammon was brought to Montevallo via the Montevallo Literary Festival Fund and gave his own contribution to continue the fund. Additionally, UM President John Stewart purchased \$250 worth of McCammon's novels to be given to the attendees until they ran out.

McCammon read "Strange Candy," a short story that tells of strange Halloween candy and ghostly visitors. This was the first time he did a reading of the story in public and afterwards he answered questions about his writing process and gave advice on being on a writer in Alabama. He furthered discussion in this Q and A by speaking about his own experiences as a writer and the ways in which these experiences often shape one's life.

Erin Green, a sophomore English and Political Science double major, said that he initially came to the reading because he wanted



McCammon spoke about his experience becoming a writer. Keshia McClantoc | The Alabamian

a free copy of McCammon's novel "Swan Song," but really appreciated the reading because he liked hearing about McCammon's path to becoming a writer.

Many other students expressed the same sentiments and greatly appreciated that McCammon is a local Alabama writer. Junior English and Sociology double major Leslie Smith said that they liked the reading because McCammon seemed very much invested in his work. "You could see that it meant a lot to him and that there was a lot of passion involved. It

was very honest."

The event was an overall success, with many attendees eagerly standing in line after the reading to get their free books signed by McCammon. Discussion continued with snacks catered from Eclipse Coffee and Books and space provided by the Carmichael Library. Despite being noted as a horror writer, McCammon's reading inspired more delight than horror.

Honors Program hosts marginalized voices panel

By KESHIA MCCLANTOC



(L to R) Rebekah Koen, Lily Elmore, Joyia Williams and Gabe Gannon at the panel.

Keshia McClantoc | The Alabamian

On Tuesday, March 21, Montevallo's Honors Program hosted the Marginalized Voices Panel in Carmichael Library. Students, professors and members of the community showed up to the panel, in which three speakers presented books that contained marginalized voices that have helped them.

Joyia Williams, a junior Elementary Education major and one of the organizers of the panel, said that they wanted to hold this panel because with all the recent events and changes, they felt as if they needed to make a space for people to actually express themselves and let their voices be heard.

Justin Lutz, an assistant Program Director at the David Mathews Center, opened up the panel and shared one of his favorite works, "Another Country," by Scott Herring. He said this book helped him because it talks about maintaining queer identity in rural areas in juxtaposition to urban areas.

Dr. Gregory Samuels, an assistant professor in Montevallo's Education department spoke next and discussed "The New Jim Crow," a book that discusses the current political and social racial tensions. He furthered this by saying he often uses this book to teach.

Finally, the coordinator at Aspire Student Support Services Bree Roberts spoke and talked about the fictional book "Her Name in the Sky," by Kelly Quindlen. This book depicts a coming-of-age story for a young lesbian character in heavily

Catholic Louisiana. Roberts talked about how this book helped because it was a way for young LGBT+ students to help find themselves.

After the initial presentation, members of the audiences were invited to ask questions of the panelists and this opened up a dialogue about finding voice even when oppressed, how to listen to the voices of others and how we can use literature as a tool to help marginalized voices be heard. Afterwards, attendees were invited to have some refreshments, take some pictures and continue discussion.

Kanjalla Dancer, a junior art major said that she initially came to just to see Roberts but she felt as if she had learned a lot. "I feel I learned that when I become an art teacher that I can still put social issues into the class," Dancer said when commenting on her favorite part of the panel.

This sentiment was echoed by junior English major Maegan Hollis, who said that she learned most in the question and answers portion of the panel and that it was nice to hear what people thought about issues.

The panel was productive and is only one of many events the Honors Program has put on to help students find voice in our current political atmosphere. The organizers said they would like to continue holding events like this and hope that students will continue to participate in the discourse they bring about.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

By GEORDIE KENNEDY

On this day in 1865, one of the most well-known political assassinations in United States history was committed. On the night of April 14, five days after the end of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln was shot in Ford's Theater by known actor and radical confederate sympathizer John Wilkes Booth.

On the night of the attack, Lincoln was attending the Washington D.C. theater for a production of the comedy "Our American Cousin," starring Laura Keane. It was at 10:15 p.m. that the play took a decidedly sour turn.

Booth slipped into the President's box, occupied by Lincoln, his wife Mary, a young army officer by the name of Henry Rathbone and Rathbone's fiancée Clara Harris. Creeping up behind the president, Booth fired a single round into Lincoln's head, then stabbed Rathbone in the shoulder in order to escape. Booth leapt from the balcony to the stage, injuring his leg in the process. Upon landing, Booth shouted "Sic Semper Tyrannis!" the Virginia state motto, meaning "Thus Ever to Tyrants." Reports from the night claim that many audience members believed the incident to be part of the show.

The assassination was actually part of a much larger, but fortunately failed, plot. Booth worked alongside David Herold, Lewis Powell and George Azerodt. Herold and Powell planned to kill William H. Seward, the secretary of state, while Azerodt was tasked with the killing of Vice President Andrew Johnson.

The confederates hoped to disrupt the United States Government by eliminating the top three positions in the U.S. government. The other three conspirators eventually failed or refused to carry out the task.

Despite this, Herold did play a role in the assassination. As Booth escaped the Ford Theater on a broken leg, Herold met with him and the two fled South on horseback.

Meanwhile, Abraham Lincoln was rushed across the street to a nearby boarding house, accompanied by several soldiers and a doctor who was attending the show. He was later examined by the Surgeon General. Any medical efforts proved fruitless, and Lincoln died at 7:22 a.m. on April 15.

In the weeks to come one of the largest manhunts in United States history took place. The hunt for Booth and Herold spanned several states and involved a massive force of the Union Army. Booth and Herold were eventually cornered on July 7 in a Virginia farmhouse. In order to smoke out the assassins, soldiers set fire to the building. The tactic worked with Herold, but Booth remained, eventually getting shot in the neck and physically removed from the building. Booth's final words were reportedly "useless... useless."

Harry Potter Club casts a spell

By ZACH MILLER



Courtesy of Holly Gothart

Whether you are a wizard or a muggle you will find a pleasant, stress-free environment at the University of Montevallo's Harry Potter Club on Thursday nights. The club meets every week at 7:30 p.m. in Comer 205.

The club is a place where members can discuss the "Harry Potter" book series by J.K. Rowling and the films based on them. The series has remained popular ever since it's debut and many of its adherents can find common ground over the beloved series. This is something that plays out in the Harry Potter club at UM.

"You get to meet people with common interests," said Emily Wideman, a sophomore biology and theater major. She joined the club her freshman year but became active this semester.

Wideman became interested in the club after finding out that some of her friends were involved. "We discuss different aspects of the books and it is just a great place to hang out," she said.

Many of the club's members have discovered it through word of mouth from other friends who have been involved. One of them was Amanda South, a junior photography major.

"My friend group started

showing up to the club so that is what we do on Thursdays," South said.

South believes that the Harry Potter books still have resonance with audiences today despite the first book being published over twenty years ago.

"Kids still see something of themselves when they read Harry Potter," she said. "They see a struggle to get through school, they see the hope and the possibility that everything will be alright," she added.

South believes that the book's themes of struggle and overcoming the rough spots in life are what make the series appealing to kids and adults.

The meetings have a relaxed atmosphere. Regular members can be heard laughing with each other over jokes about the Potter lore or discussing what type of character should or would marry another character.

Members are constantly coming in and out of meetings. Typical meetings see 10 to 15 dedicated members a week.

The club occasionally holds events like bake sales to increase awareness of the club and to promote the Potter series.